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SECURITY INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM TO THE BOARD

19 November 1951

FROM: W. P. Bundy

SUBJECT: JIG Suggestions on NIE-56 Terms of Reference

1. The following comments and suggestions were made today by Colonel Hart of JIG concerning the terms of reference of NIE-56. Colonel Hart missed Friday's meeting because of a misunderstanding.

2. JIG has made a small number of specific studies of the vulnerability of the sources of particularly vital materials, such as uranium ore, tin, steel, and most recently POL. The latter, however, is the only comprehensive study taking into account the whole picture of the needs of the US and its allies. Most of the other studies are out of date. Hence, this estimate will not duplicate existing studies to any appreciable extent.

3. Most JCS planning is being done on a three year projection running through 1954, and Col. Hart urged that the time period of the estimate be amended to include this third year. I told him there could be no real difficulty in having the Part I contributions go as far as 1954 -- as they almost certainly will anyway -- but that when it came to estimating the likelihood of loss the Board has always been very reluctant to go that far into the future and in any case the answer to 1954 would usually be the same as the answer to the period beyond 1953 as a whole. Since the use of 1954 will put the paper on all fours with JCS planning, however, I see some advantage and little harm in adding it.

4. The JIG would like to be sure that all hands understand that Greece and Turkey are now considered in the category of allies, and also that Indonesia is an important country "within the orbit of US security interests." These could be handled by oral explanation to contributors, since the existing lists are only labeled as illustrative.

5. As to priority between the Near and Middle East, on the one hand, and the Far East on the other, the JIG would favor giving priority to the Near and Middle East. One reason for this is that Part I is more readily available. A second reason is that they feel that there is not a clear enough total picture of the area, and it is badly needed. I suggest that O/RR be instructed to go along with this, unless the Far East paper would be badly held up and not vice-versa (which seems unlikely.)

6. If the Board approves the suggestions in paragraphs 3 and 5, I suggest a memorandum to O/RR to be distributed at the EIC meeting. All the IAC representatives will be at that meeting anyway.

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